Comments Ref:  RM-10783, RM-10784,RM-10785, RM-10786, RM-10787
Comment filed by Eric Funderburk, K5III,  ARRL VE

Reference:  Actions from WRC-2003

1. I fully support and endorse removal of Morse Code proficiency testing, as an entry to HF privileges (with limitations)  Historically it has been proven to discourage and otherwise deter interest in Amateur Radio to otherwise qualified candidates.

2. I would propose the following limitations.  No code Tech licensees be limited to operation of SSB only in the phone segment of the HF sub-bands authorized for their class (currently 10 meters only).  Create FCC License Stamp Endorsement Program which will include license endorsements for CW and/or Digital mode privileges.  These endorsements would include CW proficiency testing and/or digital mode written exams and would be separate endorsements.  Amateur Extra license upgrade would require both endorsements. Techs would be required to obtaining one endorsement for a digital or CW prior to upgrade and successfully pass the General written.

3. Automatic inclusion of upgrade privilege for current Tech license to Tech Plus status.  License class would simply be referred to as Technician Class. CW or digital mode privilege would be excluded from this upgrade.

4. I would propose examination of the feasibility of including 15 meter phone privilege from 21.400 to 21.450 and realignment of the 10 meter subband from 28.3 to 28.6 to reduce anticipated overcrowding on 28.3 to 28.5 of new no code HF Techs.  Upgrade to General would require an endorsement stamp for CW or Digital and General written.

5. All other HF sub bands and bands would require General or higher class license.

6. CW endorsement 5wpm proficiency exam receiving only.

7. Digital endorsement-written exam covering elements of Packet, PSK31, Amtor, RTTY, and other digital modes.

8. Technician Class licensees should be limited to a final power output of 25 watts on HF.

9. My comments provide a proposal and framework for upgradeability that is structured and will allow for both HF privilege and retention of CW without making it a mandatory requirement for HF entry.